

THE HIGHER CALLING

March, 2010 ♦ The Gideons International ♦ Zone 1 ♦ Pacific Southwest Association

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

State Cabinet Votes to Improve Communications

Your State Newsletter Will No Longer Be Snail-Mailed to You

This issue of *The Higher Calling*, which you are now reading, will be the last one that will be printed and bulk-mailed to you by our state association.

"This too shall pass away" are words that humbled King Solomon and were made famous again by a humble U.S. president, Abraham Lincoln. Yes, for certain, change is inevitable. And now Gideon state associations around the country are finding that the age of the lithographic newsletter is going the way of the buggy whip and hoop skirt.

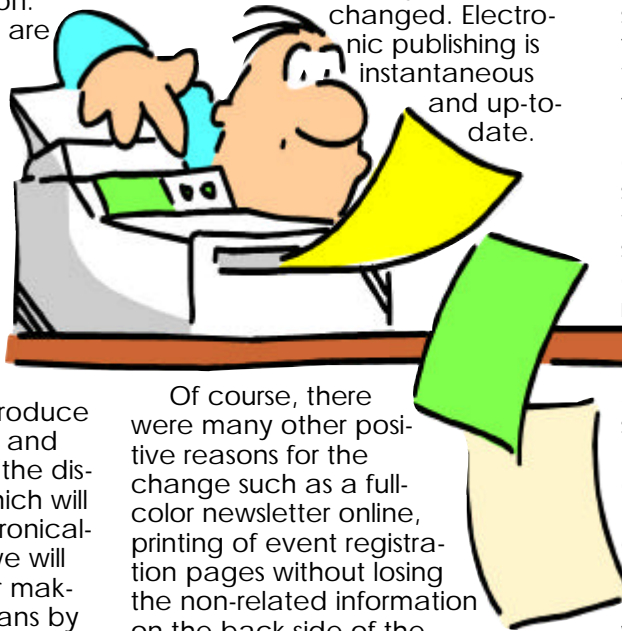
Yes, we will continue to produce a newsletter six times a year; and no, no one will be left out of the distribution of the newsletter which will primarily be distributed electronically from this point on. Below we will discuss both the rationale for making this decision and the means by which all will continue to receive the newsletter.

Your state cabinet appointed a committee to study this issue, and its recommendation to make this change, approved by the cabinet at its January 15 meeting, was based primarily on two considerations:

1. Budget Concerns – Our fervor to reach the lost has expanded our association boundaries and activity costs, but our membership growth and corresponding support

for the promotion budget has not kept pace. We will save thousands of dollars in printing and postage fees by moving to digital distribution.

2. Timely Information – By the time the newsletter is printed, addressed, mailed and received, some of the information may be stale or changed. Electronic publishing is instantaneous and up-to-date.



Of course, there were many other positive reasons for the change such as a full-color newsletter online, printing of event registration pages without losing the non-related information on the back side of the page, not depending on folios which allows a newsletter of any length, special editions for conventions and other topics are more feasible, clicking-on links for feedback or additional information are possible, easy archiving of old newsletters and more. Did you know that those with vision problems can just click a button at the bottom of the latest free version of Acrobat Reader and a computer voice will read the newsletter to the

recipient? Yes, the world is changing and we need to keep pace.

Acrobat Reader (.pdf) is a free online download from Adobe and is the program that the Post Office, IRS and your bank uses for forms and newsletters so what you see is the same thing that everyone sees...keeps the format the same for all. It is also necessary to have this program to download reports from the Gideon website.

By now, those without computers who are reading this may be seething. Fear not! We have a plan to keep you in the loop. The camp secretary (or webmaster or other designated camp member) will be responsible for making certain all members receive the newsletter. Although an

ad-hoc committee has been assigned to monitor and refine this process, below is how your state editor envisions the distributions:

1. The newsletter will be posted on the Gideon website and a notice sent to every valid e-mail address listed on the website. It will be the responsibility of every Gideon and Auxiliary member with an e-mail address to keep their e-mail address current. If you feel you cannot do this, please ask your camp secretary/webmaster to help you or contact the state secretary.

2. The state editor will develop an e-mail list of one contact from each camp who will receive an e-mail with the newsletter "attached" so the contact person can easily "forward" the attachment to members of his

Continued on Page 4

Chaplain's Corner...

Objective 3: Men and Women of Faith

by Kelly Brown
state chaplain

Do you know what's on the back of your membership card? Look and you will find our Seven Spiritual Objectives. The card lists three Scripture verses for each objective. If we study these Scripture references, what can God's Word teach us about each objective?

This article is the third in a series on our Spiritual Objectives. The January issue of *The Higher Calling* discussed the second objective: "Men and Women of Prayer." This article discusses the third: "Men and Women of Faith."

Note that as we look at our membership card carefully, we are called to read the first Scripture reference, study the second, and memorize the third.

The first reference is, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast..." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

This is one of the great statements of Christianity. The Apostle Paul begins Chapter 2 of Ephesians with a dark picture of our hopeless state before we were saved through faith in Jesus Christ. In Verse 3, he describes us as *"by nature children of wrath;"* but he moves on to speak of *"His great love"* for us in Verse 4. Paul's statement of salvation by faith in Verses 8 and 9 is the capstone of his argument in the first 9 verses of this chapter.

Anticipating the reader's thoughts about works having no value in God's salvation plan, he speaks a wonderful truth in Verse 10. What about our good works? Now that we have this glorious reconciliation with God through faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord has prepared in advance good works for us to do. God expects us to serve Him through our works. Have you been called to the Gideon Ministry *"for good works?"* Yes, you have!

The second reference is, "But

without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

Verse 1 of Chapter 11 is a kind of preamble to the chapter, the great *"faith chapter"* of the book of Hebrews: *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."*

As one reads through this chapter, we can see that the writer of Hebrews is writing about continuing faith, the kind of faith you and I, as believers, have as we continue our walk on this earth with our Lord. Chapter 11 is a great parade of Old Testament saints who, by their continuing faith in God, accomplished great things for the Master through Him. It is in this context that we read Verse 6.

Do we have faith that God can do wonderful

things *"abundantly above all that we ask or think?"*

Do we take that kind of faith with us each day as we serve Him? Hebrews 11 calls us to a faith that says God can do great things through each of us. A big faith is a faith that pleases our Lord. It is a faith that demonstrates we are continually seeking His divine help and guidance. May Jesus commend us, like the centurion in Capernaum, for *"great faith."*

The third reference is, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)

In the first 10 verses of Chapter

5, Paul speaks of his longing for his eternal home, *"a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens,"* while he continues to toil here on earth in this *"tent"* of a body. We too know we are working in these *"jars of clay"* yet looking toward our eternal reward with the Lord forever.

It is in that context that this verse teaches us to walk by faith and not by sight. One day we will be with the Lord Jesus Christ, face to face. We do not yet see it with our eyes but we see it with the faith God has given us. We serve our Lord each day longing for Beulah Land, *"where my faith will end in sight."*

In the Gideon Ministry, we are called to be men and women of faith, the faith that saves, the faith that supports and helps us in our walk, and the faith that looks forward to our heavenly home. Can I hear an amen?

Pacific Southwest Association

Conference for

Camp Chaplains

Saturday, March 6, 2010

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Calvary Chapel

270 E. Palais Rd., Anaheim, CA, 92805

Cost: \$14 per person, includes lunch

Contact: Kelly Brown
5134 Wisteria Dr.
Oceanside, CA, 92056
john_kelly_brown@msn.com
phone: (760) 940-0087

Topics: The nature of spiritual leadership
Camp discipline
Caring for camp members
Personal evangelism/soul-winning
Camp prayer meetings and more



Auxiliary Page

A Case for Every Wife to Join Her Husband in Our Ministry

"But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world – how he can please his wife – and his interests are divided."

1 Corinthians 7:33

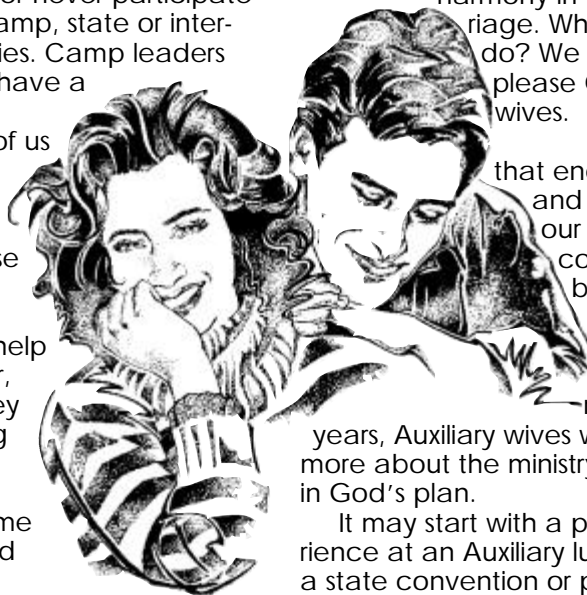
Scripture distribution and prayer are important functions of the Auxiliary, but there is another reason why the wife of every married Gideon should join her husband in this ministry.

As Christians, God asks us to put Him first in all that we do. We usually fall short. We strive to follow His will but often rely on His grace to expunge our shortcomings.

One of the complaints most often heard from camps is that the majority of the men are not "active" members. Yes, they pay their dues,

but they rarely or never participate in any of the camp, state or international activities. Camp leaders don't seem to have a solution.

How many of us have declined to participate in a Gideon activity because we had other obligations? Trying to enlist help at a county fair, men told us they were expecting company, had other projects around the home or that they had



We believe that encouraging and convincing our wives to become members of the Auxiliary is the first step. Slowly, maybe over

promised their wives that they would do this or that.

In Corinthians, Paul suggests that single men have less difficulty dedicating themselves completely for Christ. He explained that he chose not to marry for this reason. But he added that he knew this was not practical for most people.

So, we are married men and we need to please our wives and keep harmony in the marriage. What can we do? We want to please God and our wives.

years, Auxiliary wives will learn more about the ministry and its role in God's plan.

It may start with a positive experience at an Auxiliary luncheon, at a state convention or participation in a camp prayer meeting. Maybe just learning about and using Gideon Expressions (GideonCards) can inspire her. Participation in a Scripture distribution (i.e. the Inland Empire Scripture Blitz, Oct. 21-28) is often the spark that lights the fire.

It is fantastic to have both partners in a marriage sharing their dedication to Christ together through the Gideon Ministry. When this happens, they please each other when they each sacrifice to participate in the Great Commission through a Gideon activity.

There are many opportunities to accomplish God's work together... offering more time together. When we look back, which will we remember...the movie we saw together or the lives we affected by providing a copy of His word to a lost soul? You be the judge.

Contact your camp Auxiliary president for an application or download it from the Gideon website. The cost is a bargain at only \$20 per year. Why not fill out an application now while it is fresh in your mind? The blessings you will receive will be 1,000 fold.

Being an Area Director Is a Joy

by Lesley Steenberg
Auxiliary director, Area 5

Someone told me when I was considering accepting the position of area director that she thought of it as one of her favorite responsibilities. She was confident that I would also enjoy it. She was right! I'm in the middle of my second year as Area 5 director, and I'm finding it to be a very fulfilling ministry.

At first, action plans and reports were a little daunting because I was entering new territory for me. It helped a lot to ask questions, seek help, and have someone more experienced review my work. Now, I don't struggle with those so much. I view them as useful tools that help the Auxiliary to reach their goals.

One thing with which many camp Auxiliaries struggle is not enough active members to have distributions and prayer meetings. It's been very rewarding to help these ladies work toward the Auxiliary goals for their camp.

Communication is extremely

important as area director, and I have enjoyed sending birthday and Christmas cards to my camp presidents, as well as using e-mails and phone calls to keep in touch and to find out the needs in each camp. It's been my pleasure to attend camp dinners and NMPs in my area as well.

It's also been a blessing to pray, plan, and fellowship with the other ladies on the state cabinet. Exchanging ideas and encouraging each other is definitely a plus in this position.

That's why I want to serve a third year as area director. Besides all the benefits, I want to make my last year better than my second, which is already better than my first. Fine tuning my knowledge and ministry skills is yet another source of joy!

If you are considering being an area director, just remember that there are many blessings waiting for you. Ask the Lord for His wisdom, strength, and perseverance, and He will enable you to get the job done and be blessed in the process.



Are Your Efforts International in Scope?

by Mark McNett
state president

Most of us joined The Gideons International because we acknowledge that the words of Jesus in Matthew 28:19 are a command, not merely a suggestion. As Gideons and Auxiliary, we have the opportunity to do our part to fulfill The Great Commission in at least two ways:

1. By participating in the placement of God's Holy Word in the traffic lanes of life and...

2. By encouraging the body of Christ to give toward the purchase of Scriptures for distribution.

During the past year (ending May 31, 2009) Gideons and Auxiliary members distributed 77.9 million Scriptures around the world. Of that number, 11.5 million were distributed in the USA and 66.8 million were distributed in other lands. Almost six times as many Scriptures were distributed in other lands as were distributed in the USA.

The question I have for you is this: "Are you spending six times as much of your "Gideon" time and resources in efforts that will benefit Scripture distribution in other lands?"

In a recent e-mail, Zone 1 Trustee Terry Boone wrote, "We are getting into a dire financial situation in the Gideon ministry that may force us to restrict Scripture shipments into Tier III and IOM countries if more funds don't begin to flow quickly."

The need for our participation in the international ministry is greater than ever before. Listed below are a few ways that both Gideons and Auxiliary can invest more time to glorify God all over the world:

A. Gideons and Auxiliary; bring the need for more Scripture funds for Tier II and International Outreach Ministry (IOM) countries before God at your prayer meetings (James 5:16b).

B. Gideons; if there has not been a church report at your home church this year, ask your pastor if a report can be made and set a date. (If your camp cannot provide a satisfactory speaker, let your

leadership know and a qualified speaker will be provided.)

C. Auxiliary, if a Gideon Expressions presentation has not been made to a women's group at your

camp president and volunteer to contact churches. If you are not able to visit a pastor in-person, ask how you can be used to contact churches on the phone.

"We are getting into a dire financial situation in the Gideon ministry that may force us to restrict Scripture shipments into Tier III and IOM countries if more funds don't begin to flow quickly."

home church this year, ask the leader of your women's ministries if a presentation can be made.

D. Gideons, call your camp church ministry coordinator, or your

Philippians 1:6 says, **"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."**

GideonCards Demonstrate Love

Those who use the Gideon Expressions cards to demonstrate their love and concern often receive the most wonderful thank-you letters. Below is one recently received by Joe Dorbin, Las Vegas NW Camp, from Mistee Arias, the wife of 35-year-old Pastor Tony Arias, who was killed in a traffic

accident.

"Dear Joseph Dorbin,
"This note is long overdue, but I have been reflecting on your kindness for some time now. When I received your note (GideonCard) indicating that you had donated four Gideon Bibles in Tony's memory, I was

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Communications...continued from Page 1

camp with e-mail.

3. The camp contact will also be responsible for ensuring that camp members without e-mail get a copy of the newsletter. They can deliver it to them at a meeting, take it to their home, snail-mail it to them or send it to an e-mail where they can eventually read it (through a relative or friend). This is an incentive for camp secretaries to obtain and post a valid e-mail address for each member.

4. *The Higher Calling* is published every other month starting with January. If May or July rolls around and you don't receive your newsletter, what are you going to do? You should complain to your camp secretary. If that doesn't work, call your state secretary. Don't let them be slackers.

5. If you have blockers set up to block e-mail from people other than those in your address book (i.e. Excite) you will have to allow mail from the state editor to be received. This is usually done by adding the editor's e-mail address to your address book. The state editor's address is thedavejohnson@roadrunner.com.

6. If for some reason you do not wish to receive the newsletter posting announcement, please do not delete your e-mail address from your personal profile. Instead, just check the box that says, "No" under e-mail notification messages. This is done under "Update profile." Don't forget to click on "Save member file" at the bottom of the page before you exit an update.

Ridgecrest Mini-Blitz Reaches Desert Outposts

by **Brian Stromsoe**
blitz coordinator

In the remote desert from Adelanto to Ridgecrest and from Baker to Death Valley, Gideons and Auxiliary placed over 3,200 Bibles and Testaments. Some 12 Gideons and 8 Auxiliary members joined together to share God's Word Jan. 6-9.

On Wednesday, we met Phil Smith, chaplain of the San Bernardino County Jail in Adelanto and delivered 24 cases (1,140 Scriptures) of "recovered" hotel Bibles for use in the jail. The chaplain was thrilled to receive them and put them to good use. He treated us to a tour of the facility and a cup of coffee before we were met at the jail by Wayne Blevins, Victorville Camp, and Ross and Sheryl Hjellum, Anaheim Camp.

We loaded 20 cases of new Hotel Bibles into Wayne's pickup truck as he was going to make a delivery run to Baker and Death Valley on Friday. Ross and Sheryl then drove to Ridgecrest. They parked their truck in the Nazarene Church parking lot, which we used as the staging area for the blitz. I followed with the rented truck and we offloaded the Bibles and Testaments.

The first thing I noticed when I checked into Motel 6 was the 30-year-old personal Bible someone had left in the room. I was happy to inform the desk clerk that I had 125 brand new Hotel Bibles for the establishment, and that we would pick up the old Bibles on Saturday.

On Thursday, we met at Denny's Restaurant at 7 a.m. for breakfast, as the blitz team stayed in a variety of local motels. At 8 a.m., we got our assignments, prayed and loaded up with Scriptures.

I was really excited to have so

many Auxiliary members on hand as the doctor and dentist offices had not been covered in some time. Thanks ladies. Every one of those 356 Bibles and Testaments was placed in a special location for



WITNESSING — Linda Harris (right) seizes opportunity to share the Good News at the Ridgecrest Scripture Blitz.

people in need to find. Some Gideons went with the ladies while others loaded up with Hotel Bibles and placed 1,600 of them into the 34 hotels and motels of the area.

One special motel we covered was the Pinnacle Inn in Trona. I do not believe this motel, about 40 miles off the main highway, had ever received Gideon Bibles. While leaving Trona, we discovered a high school and sheriff's station in this

remote mining town which needs to be visited in the future.

Friday was the last day for most of our Gideons and Auxiliary as we finished up police and fire departments, schools, hotels, and anything else yet unfinished. A number

of pastors were contacted regarding church services to be scheduled in March. They were certainly excited to hear about our activities in the community.

Saturday we had Gideons and Auxiliary from the Palmdale Camp come to work. Our state president and his wife came to Ridgecrest and "Bibled" the Heritage Inn, then picked up the used Bibles from the hotels and motels covered on Thursday and Friday. Two other Palmdale members covered motels on a Lake-Isabella and Wofford-Heights run.

Working closely with the base chaplain, we were able to place 100 hotel Bibles for the first time in transient guest quarters at the Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake. Although at first we were met with "separation-of-church-and-state" arguments, the Lord won the day.

It was a very rewarding time with many needed distributions packed into four days. A tight-knit group of Gideons and Auxiliary from seven camps covered a very large geographical area. There were 42 facilities covered by the Auxiliary with 356 Scriptures placed, and 45 facilities covered by Gideons with 2,887 Scriptures placed.

God Was in Control at Blitz

by **Roger L. Van Ommeren**
Southeast Kern Camp

At the Ridgecrest Scripture Mini-blitz, our plans were going awry as we gathered for the Scripture distribution at James Monroe Middle School in Ridgecrest. First we thought the school would be out at 1:30 p.m., but after a visit to the school office, we discovered it would be 2:30. That meant we would not be able to do the planned distribution at the high school on the same day.

We decided to stay at the middle school and leave the high school until the following day, not knowing what the Lord was preparing for us. The middle school principal was cordial and asked us to work in cer-

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AT SCHOOL — Police suggestions helped make this high school distribution more successful.

God Was in Control at Blitz... *continued from Page 5*

tain areas. We agreed. Soon the anticipated end-of-school-day rush began.

Ron Merritt of the Ridgecrest Camp and I were busy across the street from the school. Most kids were willingly, and some eagerly, accepting Testaments. Then a police car arrived on the scene.

"What are you doing?" the officer asked as we continued to hand out Testaments to the passing students.

"We're handing out free Testaments," I told him.

"Parents are alarmed and complaining," he said.

"We have talked to the principal and the law allows us to do this," I said.

"Let me see your driver's license," the officer responded.

I showed my license to him holding out my billfold. "Take it out of your billfold," I was ordered. I took it out and handed it to him. He studied it, but he didn't hand it back. Instead, he went to his car and made calls and wrote notes. Was he writing me a ticket? I was too busy to think about it as the kids continued to stream by us accepting Testaments.

The officer returned and asked, "How would it be if you handed them out only to adults?"

I smiled and stifled a laugh. "That would defeat our whole purpose of being here."

He didn't like my response and made no move to return my license. He returned to his car and made more calls and notes. He returned again.

"You are creating a lot of trouble. You are causing a big problem. Many parents are angry," he said.

We continued to hand out Testaments. Finally he held out my license and told me, "I respect what you're doing, but you're causing a lot of trouble. There's going to be a big controversy." Then he left.

Two hours later, Bob White of the Victorville Camp and I ended our day with a stop at the police station. Would the police welcome

Testaments from Gideons who had supposedly caused them a "big problem?"

At the front desk, Bob asked if we could speak to whoever was in charge. We waited 10 minutes until the police commander waved us to a meeting room. We introduced ourselves as Gideons and noted we had encountered some problems at the middle school. He knew about it and apologized.

"It never should have happened," the watch commander said.

We told him we were planning to go to the high school the following day, and we hoped to avoid further problems. He promised there would be no problems.

"If I were you, here is what I would do. I'm not telling you what to do, but I think this is the best approach," he said. He grabbed a paper towel and began to draw a map of the high school. "Here's the administration office. I'd place men at this intersection at noon because you can reach more stu-

dents at noon when they are going to lunch than you can after school is out for the day. You can't be on the school side because there is no sidewalk along the school."

He handed us his rough map. Bob thanked him and noted we also had Testaments for police personnel. "I can use forty," he said. Instead of interrogation and opposition, we received help and cooperation. Our plans went awry, but God's plans were accomplished. We left praising God.

The next day, police officers arrived at the high school at noon to make sure we didn't have any problems. Since few students walked home after school, but most went off campus for lunch, the police helped us tremendously.

Come to a Scripture blitz and God will bless you. The next opportunity is the Inland Empire Scripture Blitz (portions of Riverside and San Bernardino counties) Oct. 21-28. There will be more information available soon.

GideonCards Demonstrate Love... continued from Page 4

touched.

"I was touched both by your thoughtfulness in using this unique method to carry on Tony's 'work' even after his death; and I was touched because of the memories it evoked. You see, whenever we traveled, Tony would pull out the Gideon Bible in our hotel room, open it up to John 3:16, underline the passage and mark the spot with a dollar bill.

"His intent was to illustrate to the next person who opened the Bible that salvation was a valuable gift, and it was free for the taking.

"The Monday I received your card, I had just returned from a trip to San Diego with Eric and Salina. In our hotel room, Eric (10 years old) had asked if I had any money. When I looked over at him to ask him why he needed money, he had the Gideon Bible in his lap with pen in hand. Of course, he was doing just what he had seen Daddy do so many times before.

"So thank you for helping carry on a family tradition and for

remembering us during this very difficult time. May God bless you always."

If you are not using GideonCards, it is time to start. If you are, there are probably opportunities to increase your usage. Have you shared a card packet with your relatives and friends so they can use the program too?

There are now 39 different cards from which to choose counting the occasion, tribute and holiday cards, all with Scripture verses and providing Scripture funds for a price that is comparable to commercial cards. Why would you use anything else.

To find out more or to order GideonCards, go to the home page at www.gideons.org or call (866) 382-4253. You don't have to log on or be a Gideon member to use Gideon Expressions. You and all of your friends can use it whenever you want. Headquarters will even send a card for you if you want. It's so easy, convenient, meaningful and rewarding. Give a card...send the Word...save a life.



The Alexis Park: A Non-gaming resort

Alexis Park Resort
375 East Harmon
Las Vegas, NV 89109

**If staying at the Alexis Park,
please make your own reservations
by calling 800-582-2228
or 702-796-3322**

Ask for the Gideon rate: \$129

Fantastic Youth Events



The Springs Preserve is a 180-acre tract of land located approximately three miles west of downtown Las Vegas. The site represents one of the richest and most unique cultural and biological resources in Southern Nevada.



**“...Go
compel them...
to come in...”**

Luke 14:23

Pacific Southwest 23rd Annual State Convention Convention Faith Fund Goal: \$149,000

Las Vegas • April 30– May 2, 2010



Luanne Triplett
International
Aux Vice President
Cabinet Rep



Javier Yepes
Asst Director
International
Division



Michael Rochelle
Bible Hour Speaker
Shadow Hills Church
Las Vegas



Christian Claudio
PAB testimony
speaker



Register on line at www.gideons.org under special events or fill out, clip and mail this registration to Bob Henry, registrar, 6565 Palmyra Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89146
E-mail questions to bobhenry702@cox.net or call (702) 274-5052

Line Item	# of Persons	Price	Subtotal
Registration fee per Gideon/Auxiliary (prior to April 1st)	_____	X \$10	_____
Registration fee after April 1st, 2010	_____	X \$20	_____
Kickoff Luncheon (all) - Friday, noon	_____	X \$25	_____
Pastors Appreciation Banquet (all) - Friday, 6:30pm	_____	X \$40	_____
I would like to pay for _____ pastor(s) meal(s)	_____	X \$40	_____
President's Breakfast (Camp presidents, State cabinet, Training leaders, Program Leaders) - Saturday, 7:00am	_____	X \$20	_____
Auxiliary President's Breakfast (Camp presidents, State cabinet, Training leaders, Program Leaders) - Saturday, 6:45am	_____	X \$20	_____
Auxiliary Luncheon - Saturday, 1pm	_____	X \$25	_____
Gideon Luncheon - Saturday, noon Canceled (lunch on your own)	_____	X \$0	_____
Fellowship Banquet (all) - Saturday, 6:30pm	_____	X \$32	_____
Nursery (infants to 6 years) Names/Ages _____			
Youth Events (7 to 18) Names/Ages _____			
	_____	X \$50	_____
Youth Bible Study, Games, Pool fun, Dinner Friday and Lunch & Dinner Saturday			

I will not be able to attend, however I am enclosing a convention contribution: \$ _____

Gideon _____ # _____ Auxiliary _____ # _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Camp _____

Will you speak at an area church? ☐ Yes ☐ No Your Denomination _____

Will you provide your own transportation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**If staying at the Alexis Park, please make your own reservations by calling:
800-582-2228 or 702-796-3322 Ask for the Gideon rate: \$129**

Bits & Pieces

by Dave Johnson
state editor



❖ Wow! Gideon Expressions now offers 39 different cards. We recommend each camp order the free display cards to show at camp meetings. Some camps are bringing the display to Gideon church services...and they do draw a lot of interest. Order your free display cards (marked *SAMPLE*) so they can't be used to send) by e-mailing freedisplay@gideons.org or by calling (866) 382-4253...only one order per camp. Camps will have to purchase their own tri-fold backing. The black backing we found at Staples really makes the cards pop out. Attach the cards with Velcro so people can examine them.

❖ Many think the "Change a Life" video is too short (2½ minutes). There are still uses for it, but there is now an alternate one that is about six minutes long. When our Auxiliary make presentations to ladies' groups at churches, the new display and the new video are a one-two punch that makes a difference.

❖ Is your camp's Auxiliary making Gideon Expressions presentations to women's groups at your churches? Perhaps it is because the Gideons are not setting them up for them. Yes, Gideons, you need to set them up. Do presentations make a difference? You bet they do! There are

always lots of questions fielded that can't be addressed in a church service...some things we just take for granted. Do this and the card usage will go up dramatically.

❖ By now, some are scratching their heads and asking, "What is Gideon Expressions?" This is what we call the GideonCard Program outside of our membership (in churches). We never use the word, "program," in conjunction with Gideon Expressions.

❖ Are you using Gideon Expressions yourself? It is truly the best way to lift spirits, offer your sympathy or celebrate an event ever developed. Begin your card order at the www.gideons.org home page.

❖ Do you have an article, a testimony, a photo or just an idea for **The Higher Calling**? The deadline for the May issue is April 15. Some editing may occur. Please put your name and camp on the attachment and do not format your article if submitted electronically. Submit letters, questions, suggestions, articles, ideas and photos to...

Editor, The Higher Calling
2542 Crooked Creek Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-3508
Phone: (909) 595-5992
Cell: (626) 665-5167

thedavejohnson@roadrunner.com

**Do more in an hour with God
than in a lifetime without Him.**

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Vivian Evans
Connie Fassett
Calvin Fong
Lionel H Lewis
Mildred Listh
Vernon C Lockwood
Gertrude McDonald
Kenneth K Glenn
Robert K Jones
Ken Killian
Dr. Lloyd Kobayashi
John N Russell
Esther Villanueva
Charles J Wilshire

Santa Clarita	11/15/09
Santa Ana	5/28/09
Victorville	10/10/09
Peninsula	12/2/09
Fontana	10/13/09
Peninsula	12/17/09
Santa Clarita	1/18/10
San Diego North	1/25/10
Van Nuys	10/8/09
San Bernardino	unknown
Riverside West	11/09
Los Angeles	1/11/10
Hollywood	10/22/09
Hemet	10/17/09
Chino Hills	11/26/09
Upland	11/1/09
Ventura	unknown
San Clemente	11/12/09
Van Nuys	unknown
Honolulu	8/09
Glendale	unknown
Puente Hills	9/19/09
Long Beach	11/28/09

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